

search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner **must** examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

MPEP § 803 (emphasis supplied). Thus, separate classification is not sufficient if the entire case can be searched at once without serious burden, as here.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is believed to be warranted.

CONCLUSION

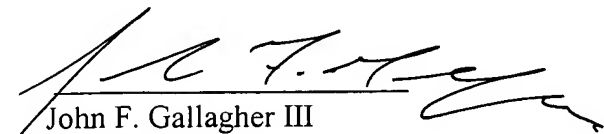
Entry of the foregoing amendment, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all pending claims, Claims 1-3, 5, 7-23, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference or personal interview will facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below. A prompt action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 04-1121. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 04-1121 therefor.

A DUPLICATE OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

Respectfully submitted,

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